United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.13

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
8 November 2016

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 13th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 17 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova)

Contents

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

(b) Industrial development cooperation

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-17965 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (A/71/173)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/71/181)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (A/71/264)

1. **Ms. Wenyan Yang** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/71/181), said that the report reviewed progress made by countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms and by the United Nations system in implementing the objectives of the Decade, examined the challenges that remained and provided a number of key recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

2. While extreme poverty and hunger had declined in all regions, daunting challenges remained in Africa and the least developed countries; there had concurrently been an increase in relative poverty in developed countries, especially in Europe. The report highlighted the substantial progress made across the world towards universal education, greater access to quality health care services, gender equality, women's empowerment and extended social protection coverage. As countries faced a number of challenges in generating full employment and decent work for all, the report identified a number of policy priorities for poverty eradication and employment creation. Finally, the report provided a review of the United Nations system's implementation of the Decade, based on consultations with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as regional commissions.

3. **Mr. Gilabert** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), introducing the report of the Director General of UNIDO (A/71/264), said that the importance of industrial development as a driver for economic growth was now recognized by all and addressed directly by Sustainable Development Goal 9, and indirectly by Goals 1, 8, 12, 13 and 17.

4. The first section of the report highlighted recent trends in industrial development examining the metric of world manufacturing value added (MVA), as well as manufactured exports, technology and the impact of industry on employment. Manufacturing production had rapidly developed in emerging economies, as many companies had relocated to benefit from lower production costs and growing markets. Exports and investment promotion had played a predominant role in long-term growth by creating a virtuous circle of investment, innovation and poverty reduction. African labour had tended to move from agriculture towards services; even though services had had much higher productivity than agriculture, overall productivity gains over time remained very limited. Technology continued to play a major role in industrial development.

5. In its second section, the report described the interconnections that existed among the various Goals dealing with industrial development. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development had direct and indirect implications for all other Goals, including Goal 17 on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

6. The main priorities of UNIDO were: creating shared prosperity, in particular through the development of agro-industries, empowering women and youth in productive activities and human security in post-crisis situations; advancing economic competitiveness by promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, trade capacity-building, and technology and investment; and safeguarding the environment by promoting clean and renewable energies, smart cities and the implementation of various multilateral agreements on the environment. Those priorities were pursued through the four areas of activity of UNIDO: technical cooperation, industrial policy research, analysis and advising, normative functions and the creation of partnerships for knowledge transfer. UNIDO likewise engaged in cross-cutting industrial statistical activities, standard setting and the exchange of information and best practices. The further development of partnerships would be key for UNIDO; it had therefore organized three forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development during the reporting period.

7. While continuing to work closely with the United Nations system and especially the Economic and

Social Council on operational activities for development, UNIDO had ensured that its strategic planning cycles were aligned with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

8. **Mr. Rahman** (World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/71/173), said that 33 Member States and territories had responded to the survey circulated by UNWTO; the responses received were representative in terms of both geographical coverage and development levels.

9. The development of tourism had been consistent across the globe, growing above average for a sixth consecutive year despite a slow and uneven economic recovery, health scares and rising geopolitical challenges. In 2015, a record 1.186 billion people had travelled the world, or 50 million more than the previous year. Forecasts predicted that by 2030, the number of international tourists would reach 1.8 billion. Tourism had thus become one of the leading sectors of the global economy, accounting for 10 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). For 2016, UNWTO forecasted international tourist arrivals to grow between 3.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent, with growth expected to be stronger in Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and Europe, in that order. Tourism was a transformative force that contributed to the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. It had the potential to create employment opportunities and help eradicate poverty.

10. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that the report of UNWTO demonstrated the importance that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, had played so far in achieving sustainable development, and in particular poverty eradication, in an integrated and holistic manner, while also empowering women, especially in rural areas. He requested further information about South-South cooperation, which could also play a role in promoting sustainable tourism and ecotourism; and measurement and data, which were a means of determining how tourism was contributing to sustainable development.

11. **Mr. Rahman** (UNWTO) said that UNWTO was focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other cross-cutting areas such as women's empowerment. It greatly valued South-South cooperation, and had recently been in discussions with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to further develop such cooperation in the context of sustainable tourism. With regard to data measurement, an issue that was extremely important for promoting sustainability in the tourism sector, with a view to achieving the Goals, UNWTO had been providing support to the efforts of Member States to collect, analyse and utilize data. More data meant better policy formulation and impact assessments for sustainable tourism.

12. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remained the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Despite the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, many member States of the Group were still plagued by poverty: the number of people in sub-Saharan Africa living on less than US$ 1.25 a day had actually increased, and there were growing levels of inequality both within and among countries. It was therefore crucial to evaluate and follow up on the implementation of the Decade by strengthening coordination, coherence and synergies and identifying the way forward. Collective efforts must be exponentially multiplied, in particular through the proclamation of a third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2028), aimed at closing the gap between policies and countries' capacities to achieve the ultimate goal.

13. The diverse needs and challenges faced by developing countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, middle-income countries and countries and peoples living under foreign occupation must be recognized. The Governments of developing countries must be enabled to formulate their own development strategies and policy tools, in line with their national priorities and circumstances. The support of the United Nations system and other international partners, was crucial in order to catalyse structural changes through people-centred economic and social policies that promoted

inclusive growth, job creation, investment in education, health care and infrastructure, the creation of a social safety net and the empowerment of women.

14. Building upon the lessons learned during the implementation of the Decade and of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), work must be conducted to improve data and monitoring systems, harness partnerships and foster the global exchange of ideas to eradicate poverty and create decent jobs. The United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, must develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that went beyond per capita income.

15. As the provision and mobilization of adequate and predictable resources remained one of the main challenges for developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the means of financing set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development were of great importance, and it was crucial for all official development assistance (ODA) commitments to be fulfilled. An enabling international environment could be achieved through the provision of additional financing resources, technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, capacity-building and pro-development trade policies, as well as the equitable and effective participation of developing countries in global economic governance.

16. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development was an essential part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation aimed at eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth, as well as the realization of many of the Goals. Since UNIDO was an important provider of specialized services for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including the building of productive capacities, the Group of 77 and China called on it to organize global dialogues and to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, it expressed deep concern at the continued withdrawal of developed countries from UNIDO and called on all countries to return or maintain their membership in that organization.

17. **Ms. Young** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/71/181) told an all too familiar story of uneven and regionally disparate global progress. The Caribbean faced a distinct challenge amongst developing countries, since poverty as traditionally measured, as well as growing multidimensional poverty, existed alongside persistent low growth and the incipient erosion of human development gains. In CARICOM States, poverty disproportionately affected young people, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, small-scale farmers, unskilled workers, indigenous populations, single-parent households and large families; it was predominately a rural phenomenon, with pockets of poverty in urban and inner city communities resulting from internal migration.

18. At the macrolevel, the determinants of poverty included low growth rates, inequitable income distribution, low productivity, a lack of competitiveness in the productive sectors, ineffective economic and social policies, exogenous shocks and limited human capital. At the microlevel, the determinants included under- or unemployment, low education levels, poor health, ethnic and gender inequalities and social exclusion. The CARICOM region had adopted a number of strategic multidimensional plans with the aim of tackling poverty at the State, household and individual levels, addressing both macro and microdeterminants.

19. CARICOM States were nonetheless aware of their limitations, given their geography, size, capacity constraints and open and trade-dependent economies. As small, low-lying islands, they suffered disproportionately from the consequences of climate change; at times, they had limited ability to absorb even the help that they desperately needed. Much as they bore the burden of climate change caused by the industrial actions of other countries, CARICOM States also bore the deleterious consequences of economic and financial policies to which they had not consented. In addition, the de-risking trend in the financial sector threatened their survival.

20. The 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed commitments provided a powerful new toolkit for economic, social and environmental justice, as well as a multidimensional approach to poverty eradication. The approach must also be universal, coordinated,

integrated and coherent at all levels. The challenge of implementation would require the alignment of national plans with the 2030 agenda; adequate funding and other means of implementation; and the commitment of all countries, stakeholders and institutions to the universal achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. As many global policies presented obstacles to the sustainable development of CARICOM States, CARICOM had identified four areas for greater coherence between the national and international levels: tax cooperation, financial inclusion, debt sustainability, and climate change policies and finance.

22. The final year of the Decade was an opportunity for the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to make a strong case against the de-risking trend in the international banking sector; to enhance intergovernmental cooperation on tax matters; to revise the metrics used to assess development; and to reassess the multilateral approach to debt sustainability so that highly indebted countries with limited domestic resource mobilization capacity could access the necessary support. The United Nations could play an important role in spurring momentum for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change, and should also support mitigation efforts in small island developing States. Poverty was not unidimensional; the international community now had new tools that, if effectively applied, could ensure that the benefits of globalization were evenly distributed and that no person or country would suffer from the poverty of opportunity.

23. **Mr. Cortorreal** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that according to the report "Social Panorama of Latin America 2015" of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly 175 million people in that region lived in poverty, while another 75 million lived in extreme poverty. Although the region had met most of the Millennium Development Goals and several countries had achieved middle-income status, significant gaps and disparities remained, both between and within countries.

24. One of the major challenges was technological gaps. There was a critical need for dissemination and transfer of innovation and new technologies, in particular of environmentally sound technologies, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms.

25. Reiterating the commitment of CELAC to the overarching goal of eradicating poverty, he emphasized the need for an enabling international economic environment with mutually supportive trade, monetary and financial systems and enhanced global economic governance. It was vital to respect each country's policy space and leadership as well as the sovereign right of States to determine the appropriate use and management of their natural resources, which provided important support for economic development, social justice and well-being.

26. Sustainable development should be addressed from an integrated and holistic perspective. Piecemeal approaches to poverty diagnosis and reduction, as well as the prioritizing of certain dimensions of development to the exclusion of others, distorted the true situation, in particular that of middle-income countries. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had made clear that ODA and other forms of concessional financing were still essential for some middle-income countries. CELAC called on the United Nations system and international financial institutions to develop transparent measurements of progress in sustainable development that went beyond per capita income. Such indicators should recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions and should include the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output as well as structural gaps at all levels.

27. Sustainable development could not be attained without including vulnerable groups such as indigenous and other tribal populations, individuals of African descent, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents. Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair credit were central to ensuring overall access to justice, citizen participation and a dignified life for all. Sustainable development would not be possible without genuine equality between men and women. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements must be people-centred, human rights based and with a crosscutting gender perspective.

28. High-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data were an essential input for transparent decision-

making and for setting policy at all levels. CELAC reaffirmed the central role of follow-up and review and the strengthening of national and regional data systems. The availability of data disaggregated on the basis of income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographical location and other relevant characteristics would increase the visibility of social and regional disparities. CELAC called for international cooperation and the strengthening of national capacities for that purpose.

29. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/71/181) provided insight into the challenges that continued to impede poverty eradication efforts. Although the overall level of extreme poverty in the least developed countries had declined, progress had been extremely uneven. The least developed countries continued to be the worst affected by conflicts, climate change, disease and economic shocks, and had been unable to achieve most of the MDGs. It was particularly disturbing that some 24 million children of primary school age in least developed countries were not attending school.

30. In order to graduate from least-developed status, the least developed countries needed to invest in their agricultural and industrial sectors. They would also have to pay special attention to women and youth. The private sector should be the primary engine of growth, but coherent policy interventions could help to promote equality, food security, job creation and increased income. While the onus of development lay primarily with the least developed countries themselves, enhanced global support — including ODA, foreign direct investment (FDI) and duty-free, quota-free market access — could be instrumental in advancing development and reducing poverty. He welcomed the commitment of the international community to expedited operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries.

31. Promising synergies had been created between the 2030 Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. He urged development partners and the United Nations system to comply with the provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The least developed countries needed additional and predictable support from the international community to address the impacts of climate change and disasters, and placed great importance on the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He also called on the international community to ensure safe, regular and orderly migration to help the least developed countries reap the benefits of migration as an enabler for development.

32. Many least developed countries had economies that were largely dependent the export of one or a few primary commodities. They needed help with financing, capacity-building and technology transfer in order to diversify and achieve sustainable industrialization as called for by Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships between least developed countries and UNIDO should be anchored in national ownership and leadership. Lessons learned from implementation of the MDGs and of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should be drawn on in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and ridding the world of poverty.

33. **Mr. Tuy** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2016-2020 adopted by the ASEAN-United Nations summit held in Vientiane on 7 September 2016 had affirmed both the 2030 Agenda and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. At a meeting with the Secretary-General held in New York on 24 September 2016, the ASEAN Ministers for Foreign Affairs had emphasized the need for a holistic approach to sustainable development that balanced the three pillars and identified priority areas where complementarities could be enhanced. Within the South-East Asia region, ASEAN had established a number of integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to reduce the development gap, empower communities and engage stakeholders.

34. Poverty eradication was intimately linked with rural development. The ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015) focused on cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve a convergence between rural development and poverty eradication initiatives at the local, national and regional levels. The ASEAN-help-ASEAN approach promoted the sharing of best practices. Community

empowerment was being advanced by microfinance, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment strategies, as well as the promotion of local agriculture and fisheries and the development of farming techniques and vocational skills. The ASEAN GO-NGO forum on rural development and poverty eradication had been established as a platform for private-sector and civil-society stakeholders to share information and exchange views.

35. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries continued to need assistance from developed countries in eradicating poverty. He called on the developed countries to meet the ODA targets of 0.7 per cent of GDP for assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GDP for assistance to least developed countries. He also stressed the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation.

36. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/71/181) had highlighted the role of inclusive growth and decent work in reducing poverty and promoting development. Her Government's economic agenda envisioned a reduction of almost 10 per cent in the poverty rate over the next six years, and aimed to transform the Philippines into an upper middle-income country by 2022. Given that some three quarters of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, she urged a more nuanced approach to the middle-income country classification that moved beyond the sole criterion of GDP. Her delegation was pleased that the Secretary-General's report had made reference to the Multidimensional Poverty Index, which employed an approach similar to the one being developed by her country's national statistics authority.

37. The Philippines' Vision 2040 plan was anchored in a people-centred approach that rebalanced growth and development opportunities across regions, sectors and socioeconomic groups. Its Accelerated and Sustainable Anti-Poverty Program aimed to help lagging regions and rural areas by facilitating the transport of goods to cities and even overseas and to promote access to employment and to information and communications technology (ICT). The international community needed to draw on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Decade, particularly with respect to improving data and monitoring systems, harnessing partnerships, fostering the global exchange of experiences and showcasing effective anti-poverty and job-creation initiatives.

38. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that despite substantial progress in recent years, poverty eradication continued to be the greatest challenge to humanity. Inequality both among and within nations was stark, and continued to have wide ramifications that included conflict and large-scale migration. Rapid economic growth had allowed millions of people in his country, which contained one sixth of the global population, to overcome poverty. In particular, India had made innovative use of ICT to ensure financial inclusion. Over 1 billion people had been issued a biometric-based Aadhaar identity card that allowed access to a wide range of e-services, some 250 million people had opened bank accounts through the Jan-Dhan financial services programme, and smartphone applications were being widely used. The Aadhaar system was especially effective in reaching poor, vulnerable and rural populations that might otherwise find themselves marginalized, and in improving the efficiency of welfare schemes while plugging leakages.

39. His Government was also employing ICT to improve access to education, healthcare, drinking water and sanitation and was developing geographical information management systems for water, crop inventory and other natural resources and early warning for natural disasters. It was investing heavily in both the agricultural and industrial sectors, while at the same time providing vocational training to match workers with suitable employment. It had also instituted reforms to harmonize tax regulations among India's different States. Several international studies, including the 2016 World Bank report on poverty and shared prosperity, had recognized India's successes in lifting people out of poverty.

40. Both the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals had called for genuine global partnerships; growing international concern over the fairness of the global financial systems was reflected in the ongoing debate over reforming the Bretton Woods institutions. He urged the developed States to honour their ODA commitments and welcomed the Secretary-General's

warning that additional financing for any other purpose should not come at the expense of development funding. His country would continue to expand its South-South partnerships, especially with least developed countries, including in Africa, and small island developing States. He urged the Committee to leverage its convening power through the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process to ensure that the 2030 Agenda's relentless focus on poverty would be reflected throughout the United Nations development system.

41. **Ms. Pham** Thi Kim Anh (Viet Nam) said that poverty eradication had always been at the heart of development efforts in her country, which was proud to have halved its poverty rate. Although the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty had seen a global reduction in poverty, progress had been uneven both within and among countries. Poverty was an increasingly complex and multifaceted phenomenon, with certain groups marginalized because of socioeconomic status, gender or other demographic reasons. Many people who had managed to climb out of poverty were at risk of falling back due to economic or climate-related shocks. Lifting people permanently out of poverty required addressing its root causes. Decent jobs needed to be created to stimulate consumption, saving and investment. Structural transformation should be instituted to foster global competitiveness and increase living standards. Enhanced social protection and public services and the promotion of gender equality would help to build resilience to shocks and ensure that progress was more evenly distributed.

42. The importance of national policies should not eclipse the importance of international cooperation. She called for a rules-based, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and urged donor countries to deliver on their ODA commitments as reiterated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

43. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that any discussion of the 2030 Agenda needed to focus first and foremost on poverty and hunger. His country was an MDG success story. Successive Governments in the Maldives had made significant investments in health, education and food subsidies, which had paid off in terms of human development. In particular, the Maldives was working to harness the potential of its youth by promoting skills-based learning and vocational training. Several initiatives had been launched to broaden employment opportunities for the almost 50 per cent of the population that was under the age of 25, including the expansion of tertiary education institutions through public and private investments and the introduction of salaries and scholarships for athletes.

44. Part of his country's boost in GDP had derived from tourism and fishing, two industries that were highly vulnerable to climate and market shocks. Truly sustainable growth would require investment in human development, diversification and resilient infrastructure. In that regard, the Maldives had widened the range of experiences offered by its tourism industry, thereby creating more jobs in local communities, and had established special economic zones to concentrate industry and human capital.

45. His country had repeatedly called for measures of development that went beyond GDP and took into account other factors, including the level of vulnerability to economic and environmental risks that might reverse gains, which was a matter of particular concern for small island developing States. As economists had observed in the wake of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the reconstruction activity that typically followed natural disasters often registered a deceptive rise in GDP that was really a reflection of recovery rather than growth. Another problem with GDP as an exclusive indicator of development was that it recorded overall increases in wealth without regard to equitable distribution.

46. **Ms. Ortez** (Honduras) said that the Latin American region was striving to promote inclusive development that would generate employment opportunities and food security as the fundamental guarantor of access not only to food but also to health services and education. Three elements were key to that commitment: the belief that enhanced well-being and social equality required balanced, fair economic growth that would promote economic and social factors in equal measure; recognition of the need for equitable distribution and of the civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights of the individual; and respect for the diversity, specificity and identity of each region.

47. Her Government had established a number of policies and programmes aimed at creating opportunities and combating poverty and was following the road map set out in its Better Life

Programme. It continued to emphasize production and decent work by repositioning economic policy as the best social policy.

48. It was important to reduce the implementation gaps among countries, in particular with respect to access to financing and barriers to technology transfer. Developed countries needed to fulfil their ODA commitments and to adhere to the principles set out in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

49. **Ms. Noskova** (Russian Federation) said that the eradication of poverty was rightly the central goal of the 2030 Agenda. However, poverty was multidimensional and could not be defined only on the basis of GDP. Other important factors should be taken into account, including disparities in income and education levels. Middle-income countries offered the best examples of the inadequacy of the existing criteria for assessing poverty, since they accounted for over 50 per cent of the people living below the poverty line. Consequently, her country believed that support provided by the United Nations development system should be differentiated and take into account various factors, in the spirit of the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda, that no one should be left behind. The Russian Federation was working in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme to implement rural development projects in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

50. Poverty led to social tensions and conflict, as was evident in some of the least developed countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. The development of industrial potential could contribute to poverty eradication and do much to boost employment. UNIDO should continue to play an active role in promoting economic diversification, assisting small and medium-sized enterprises and introducing modern technologies and standards. It had already undertaken a number of important initiatives as follow-up to the Lima Declaration on Alternative Development of 2013, and was developing partnerships with Governments and the private sector, which were playing an increasingly important role in promoting sustainable development.

51. In collaboration with UNIDO, the Russian Federation was pursuing infrastructure projects to enhance the competitiveness of the export sector in Armenia, to stimulate the production of construction materials in Kyrgyzstan, to modernize the automobile component industry in Belarus and support the development of its food industry, as well as to assist the development of the agrochemical industry and agricultural engineering in Cuba.

52. **Mr. Chandra** (Indonesia) said that the most successful criminal on earth was poverty. It took lives and robbed people of their choices, security, self-esteem and hope for the future. Like much of the rest of the world, his country had achieved the MDG target of halving poverty. However, the 2030 Agenda's goal of eliminating poverty altogether would require innovative solutions that ensured that people who had climbed out of poverty would not be swallowed back in. All financial flows — private, public, as well as aid — needed to be harnessed, and measures needed to be taken to facilitate credit, enhance productive capacity, improve infrastructure and provide full, productive and decent employment for all. Cooperation should be enhanced at all levels, including the exchange of experience and expertise and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms. It was important to build resilience to shocks such as economic downturns, disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Strategies should be tailored to countries' specific economic, social, cultural, demographic and geographic situations.

53. His country was entering the third phase of its national long-term development plan for 2005-2025, which included a number of poverty reduction strategies. That plan's social protection component provided health assistance for poor people, including poor students, to be distributed by local banks. The national programme for community empowerment was being supported by multilateral development banks. There was also a credit programme to provide government-guaranteed bank loans to microenterprises and cooperatives. With a projected growth rate of over 5 per cent for 2017, his Government hoped to achieve substantial progress in poverty reduction.

54. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was a suitable occasion to acknowledge the centrality of poverty eradication to a sustainable future. His

country had made poverty reduction a top national priority, and was implementing a broad range of programmes to promote inclusive growth and reduce inequality. While the poverty level had fallen in absolute terms, relative poverty and non-inclusive growth were continuing challenges. He requested that in the future, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should provide greater detail on the Middle East and North Africa region, where some 10 per cent of the population lived in extreme poverty.

55. The international community should focus on global and regional partnerships to create an enabling environment for developing countries, in particular in relation to ODA, FDI, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development had an essential role to play in poverty eradication. UNIDO should work to advance infrastructure development and innovation with a view to achieving Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals on building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

56. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that his country had aligned its 2016-2018 development strategy with the 2030 Agenda with the aim of promoting inclusive and sustainable development and reducing poverty and inequality. The strategy covered five main areas: reinforcing peace and security; strengthening the macroeconomic framework; promoting accelerated, sustainable growth that would generate employment, especially for the poor; ensuring equitable access to basic services; and promoting institutional development and good governance.

57. His Government was deeply committed to the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali in order to resolve the multidimensional crisis that had beset the country since 2012; alongside political and security aspects, the Agreement prioritized national development, with a special focus on the northern area. His Government had established an emergency recovery plan for the period from 2016-2017 and was working on a specific development strategy for the northern regions and the creation of a sustainable development fund that would be established at an initial level of some €457 million.

58. His Government was convinced that gender equality was essential to poverty eradication; in December 2015 the National Assembly had adopted a law to establish quotas requiring at least 30 per cent of all appointed and elective posts to be held by women. Mali had also adopted a national plan of action for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and a national gender policy which had enabled women to be represented at all levels of public administration, including in the armed forces and law enforcement. In addition, efforts were being made to combat violence against women, including female genital mutilation and early marriage. His Government had also introduced targeted programmes for rural women to strengthen their managerial skills and ensure their equal access to all available economic resources. He urged the country's technical and financial partners to honour the commitments they had made at the Brussels and Paris donor conferences held in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

59. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her Government accorded priority to eradicating poverty and, between 2000 and 2013, had succeeded in reducing extreme poverty from 17.8 per cent in 2000 to 2.8 per cent in 2013. In 2014, the World Bank had removed Kyrgyzstan from the list of poor countries and moved it to the category of middle-income developing nations.

60. The level of poverty, however, remained a pressing social problem. Although her Government had introduced a number of economic and social measures aimed at improving the standard of living, progress continued to be slow due to such external factors such as market volatility, climate change and lack of stability as well as geography. Mountains accounted for more than 70 per cent of Kyrgyzstan's total surface area, and the country also lacked access to the sea. Because of their remoteness, inaccessibility, harsh climate conditions and information isolation, landlocked countries had to spend more to maintain a basic standard of living, all of which hindered their ability to eradicate poverty and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. Kyrgyzstan's national strategy for sustainable development for 2013-2017 included a broad range of poverty-reduction initiatives; its programme for the development of the social welfare system for 2015-

2017 aimed at providing targeted assistance to the most vulnerable citizens and promoting employment. In January 2015, monthly benefits to low-income families had been increased by 10.2 per cent. Reforms to the national health system had been undertaken to ensure that every citizen would receive adequate health care regardless of social status or gender. An educational development strategy for the years 2012 to 2020 was also being implemented, and included reforms to the vocational and technical education system designed to prepare qualified specialists for the work force. A new programme had been introduced to address the specific needs of older persons, and pensions would now be annually indexed so as to ensure a minimum standard of living.

62. Her Government believed that the eradication of poverty could not be uncoupled from the elimination of gender inequality. It had adopted a national gender equality strategy for 2012-2020 covering such priorities as women in the economy, education for women and girls, access to justice and political equality. The strategy was intended to empower women across the board, including rural and older women as well as those with compromised health and other vulnerable categories.

63. Finally, her Government urged all donor countries to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

64. **Ms. Chow** (Singapore) said that a half-century earlier, when her country became independent, three quarters of the population lived in informal housing amid deplorable infrastructure and sanitation. However, decades of hard work had made Singapore a city with a high quality of life, a competitive economy and a sustainable environment.

65. As a small island State whose single and best resource was its human capital, Singapore had stressed universal access to education at the primary and secondary levels. According to the Programme for International Student Assessment of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, even Singaporean students from less affluent backgrounds excelled academically. Her Government had also just launched its SkillsFuture programme, which would promote skills relevant to a changing economy by ensuring that learning continued throughout adulthood. Nine out of 10 Singaporeans owned their own homes, owing to Government-designed long-term savings plans. Her Government had also instituted compulsory medical insurance with subsidies for lower and middle-income families for hospitalization and long-term care, in order to ensure that unexpected medicals bills did not push people into poverty.

66. Singapore had received international assistance when it was a young country. Now it was giving back by sharing its development experience and expertise with other developing countries. It had provided training to over 100,000 government officials from 170 countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme, and had provided technical assistance to over 40 countries under its third country training programmes.

67. **Mr. Skinner-Klee** (Guatemala) said that despite the numerous commitments made during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially the middle-income countries, still faced significant structural gaps such as low productivity, lags in health and education services, stubborn gender disparities and territorial inequalities and vulnerability to climate change. Moreover, countries that exported commodities never received fair or remunerative prices; instead, the profits from such trade always went to buyer countries, which dominated the international market. That situation was exacerbated by agricultural subsidies in the industrialized countries, a pattern that perpetuated the cycle of poverty in the developing world and left developing countries in a precarious situation. It was therefore incumbent on the full spectrum of international actors, including both the public and private sectors, to work collectively to advance the 2030 Agenda with the goal of eradicating poverty, keeping in mind the unbalanced, prejudicial conditions of international trade.

68. Guatemala had set in motion its own national development plan, a long-term strategy known as K'atun, Our Guatemala 2032, which had been designed to align its entire development policy with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Plan would serve as a road map to prioritize productive economic activity by promoting access to dignified employment and self-employment along with mechanisms to increase competition with a view to reducing poverty and inequality.

69. His Government was also paying attention to gender equality, especially since women accounted for nearly 43 per cent of the economically active population of Guatemala, according to figures from the National Institute of Statistics. It was therefore important to create better work spaces with equal labour and economic conditions for women.

70. His delegation hoped that the Committee would work jointly with the Third Committee to bring a holistic focus to addressing the whole spectrum of inequality and to develop a tangible response to the structural causes of under-development, marginalization, hunger and poverty, all of which played a role in forcing so many of his country's inhabitants to leave their homes behind and emigrate in search of better opportunities for themselves and their children.

71. **Ms. Zanudin** (Malaysia) said that her country's development agenda emphasized poverty eradication. Malaysia had met the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty in the year 2000, well ahead of schedule. Since then, poverty had declined to 0.6 per cent in 2014 and hard-core poverty had been virtually eliminated by 2015. However, her country would not rest on its laurels. By introducing its own version of a multidimensional poverty index, the measurement of poverty had been expanded beyond income to reflect other aspects of poverty, namely education, health and quality of life.

72. Her Government was determined to achieve greater inclusivity through initiatives to further uplift the incomes and quality of life of low-income Malaysians, focusing on outcome-based support and productivity-linked assistance including entrepreneurship and skills training, technology adoption, asset ownership and investment in improving connectivity and basic amenities. By 2020, it aimed to double average income for the bottom 40 per cent of households, thereby elevating them into the middle class, raise the participation rate of women in the workforce and improve connectivity, mobility and infrastructure in rural areas.

73. International and regional partnerships were a key element for eradicating poverty on a global scale. Continued support from developed countries was vital to provide the necessary enabling environment and means of implementation for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries.

74. **Ms. Kalamwina** (Zambia) said that, bearing in mind that more than 50 per cent of the population of the least developed countries lived on less than $1.25 a day, concerted global efforts aimed at eradicating extreme poverty must be prioritized. It was therefore vital to ensure that national development plans were aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Global interventions needed to emphasize a holistic, equitable and far-sighted approach to decision-making at all levels.

75. Her country had implemented multiple interventions to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty in rural areas, where poverty was concentrated. In 2014 it had ramped up the social cash transfer programme it had launched in 2003, expanding it to 31 new districts nationwide, with a total of more than 222,000 households now receiving support. Other strategies designed to accelerate poverty reduction included assistance to farming households, the promotion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, skills training, a women's empowerment programme and a bursary scheme for students.

76. Zambia was also moving forward with a strategy for industrialization and job creation, with particular emphasis on rural industrialization. So far, six multi-facility economic zones and industrial parks had been created across the country. It was hoped that they would become centres of excellence in value addition, research and development, where Zambian nationals would upgrade their skills both as employees and as operators.

77. **Mr. Kafle** (Nepal) said that poverty reduction had been at the core of his country's development agenda for the past 25 years. His Government had put in place policy and institutional measures with employment generation as the cornerstone of all initiatives. As a result, extreme poverty had been halved over the past decade. Further reductions were envisaged for the coming years, and Nepal had the ambition of graduating from least-developed status by 2022, although the earthquakes of the past year had placed fresh obstacles in the way of that goal. Agriculture was the mainstay of his country's economy. Emphasis had been placed on the empowerment and inclusion of women, youth and indigenous groups. Education was the great equalizer

that could lead to a fairer distribution of development dividends. Sustainable tourism was also important in that regard.

78. However, national efforts alone would not be sufficient, and must be complemented by international support measures which provided least developed countries and landlocked developing countries with enhanced, predictable and sustained financial and technical support tailored to their specific needs. Countries like Nepal which were emerging from conflict and disasters should be accorded priority.

79. **Ms. Hernández Vásquez** (Mexico) said that poverty violated people's dignity, limited their basic rights and freedoms and prevented them from meeting their basic needs, all of which impeded their full integration into society. It was a multidimensional phenomenon which also impacted other areas, including education, health services, nutrition and housing. There was therefore a need for universal instruments to obtain accurate and disaggregated data that went beyond the measurement of per capita income.

80. In view of the uneven progress of poverty reduction in different parts of the world, special attention should be paid to poverty in rural areas and among women, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups and migrants. Overcoming poverty required public policies that promoted well-paid jobs with coverage for accidents and sickness; universal primary and secondary education; health care; and access to adequate housing and healthy nutrition.

81. Because poverty was a crosscutting issue, no country could meet its challenges alone. It could be addressed only by finding a balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development: peace, development and human rights. The causes of poverty needed to be addressed; the international community had an obligation to promote development as a pre-condition for achieving sustainable peace. The eradication of poverty was therefore not only a challenge but an ethical, social and economic priority. It was important to acknowledge that middle-income countries were home to the majority of the world's poor and that they faced continuing development challenges.

82. Cooperation towards sustainable industrial development was also key and required the participation of the business community. Her Government recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation with the private sector, civil society, academia, international organizations and financial institutions in order to expand the investment needed to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty eradication could not be achieved without the full involvement of the private sector; industrial development could offer decent employment for youth and was also a catalyst for scientific, technological and infrastructure development in support of sustainable development, which would reinforce the effort to combat and eradicate extreme poverty.

83. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the multidimensional character of poverty was reflected in the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda; the achievement of Goal 1, on the eradication of poverty, was inseparable from the implementation of the other 16 Sustainable Development Goals. The means for financing development and therefore for combating poverty were outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The international community already had the tools, the political commitment and the knowledge to deal with the issue; it must now accord priority to effective action and structural change. Agencies, funds and programmes should contribute to the creation of an enabling international environment that would lead to the full eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development.

84. His country's experience over the past decade had proved that economic expansion and market forces alone could not provide long-term solutions to eradicating poverty. It was essential to strengthen social protection networks through cash transfer programmes that were fully integrated into public health and education systems. In Brazil, such programmes had improved access to financial services by the poorest and most marginalized sectors of society and had led to the removal of Brazil from the World Hunger Map of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Women played a central role in Brazil as the main focus of conditional cash transfers, which had empowered them with respect to their full and equal participation and leadership and enhanced the efficiency of the programmes themselves.

85. In order to achieve lasting gains, a balanced approach was required that valued human rights and left no one behind, enabling people to break the cycle of poverty in its multidimensional and intergenerational aspect. In that regard, his country supported the proclamation of a third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty to begin in 2018, in order to maintain the momentum of the effort to eliminate poverty by 2030.

86. **Mr. Bama** (Burkina Faso) said that his Government accorded high priority to poverty eradication. In July 2016 it had adopted a national economic and social development plan aimed at reforming institutions, modernizing public administration, developing human capital and invigorating key economic sectors. The strategic goals of the plan incorporated the primary targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and of Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want, of the African Union, with a view towards better integrating economic growth and transformation, reducing inequality and promoting social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The plan had been designed to create some 50,000 jobs a year and to reduce the incidence of poverty from 40 per cent to 35 per cent by 2020.

87. His delegation firmly believed that extreme poverty could be eliminated by 2030 throughout the world if countries acted in synergy and through strengthened partnerships to support the structural transformation of national economies.

88. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea) said that by placing the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, the international community had sent a message to impoverished people the world over, who could take comfort in the fact that 15 years was the official deadline for ending extreme poverty. That message would ring hollow, however, without the necessary financing to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. All available internal and external resources must be leveraged from both the public and private sectors. In that regard, the commitments agreed under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda should permit the broad mobilization of resources required for eradicating poverty by 2030. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should build on the achievements of the first Decade in support of the ultimate goal of eliminating poverty within the framework of sustainable development. It was important for the international community to grasp the multidimensional nature of poverty, which went beyond absence of income or of access to means of subsistence.

89. His Government had developed a five-year socioeconomic development plan for 2016-2020 to address such key issues as combating poverty; improving governance; diversifying and expanding the economy; developing infrastructure and improving defence and security. The plan, which also addressed matters of well-being, gender equality and poverty eradication, would serve as a conceptual framework for assistance from his country's bilateral and multilateral partners.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.